

STATE OF MAINE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR 1 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

25 May 2012

The 125th Legislature of the State of Maine State House Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 125th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 807, "An Act To Limit the Bonding Authority of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to Court Facility Projects."

The original version of this bill would have required all bonds to go out to the voters by removing the Authority's power to bond. I understand that position and would have signed the bill. However, the enacted version requires most bonds to go to voters, except for court bonds. While I strongly support the judicial branch, why should they receive special treatment? Our Constitution gives us three co-equal branches of government. We must have consistency among them.

We also need to look at all the independent authorities and the way they issue debt. Whether you call it General Obligation, Lease Revenue, or Moral Obligation, a bond is a loan and loans need to be paid back. Government pays it back with taxpayer dollars. We owe it to Maine people to ensure that elected officials are involved and responsible for any debt because, at the end of the day, it is the taxpayers' money on the line.

For these reasons, I am returning LD 807 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage

Governor

